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EDITORIALS

TWO RECENT CALIFORNIA RESEARCHES-THE ASCHHEIM-ZONDEK PREGNANCY TEST AND THE COFFEY-HUMBER CANCER EXPERIMENTS

California Doing Its Part in Medical Research Work.—In the December 1929 issue of this journal, page 428, mention was made in this column of the excellent work which had been brought out by the Hooper Foundation of the University of California. If it is gratifying to know that the group studies of that Foundation are a credit to California, it is equally pleasing to know that here and there throughout our state, individual members of the medical profession are not lacking in capacity for keen analysis and constructive thinking, as they meet their day to day problems in medical practice. Two of such studies seem worthy of special mention at this time. Both are endocrine researches, and each opens up vistas of new fields of intriguing investigation, combined with possibilities of much usefulness in general practice and of benefit to humanity.

The Evans-Simpson Report on the Aschheim-Zondek Test for Pregnancy.—Among the special articles in this issue of California and Western MEDICINE is an article on the "Aschheim-Zondek Test for Pregnancy-Its Present Status" by Doctors Evans and Simpson of the Anatomical Laboratory of the University of California. Their corroborative studies of the original work of Zondek, Smith and Aschheim on the close relationship in the action and nature of the anterior lobe of the hypophysis in provoking sexual maturity in sexually undeveloped animals, and of certain substances which are existent in the blood and urine of human females during pregnancy are most interesting. The world has long desired a test which would give more accurate early knowledge of pregnancy than do the symptoms and signs listed in current volumes on obstetrics. Doctors Evans and Simpson present the technique of the test with explanatory comments on the reactions that are quite convincing; and summarize their viewpoints by stating that it is a very dependable test, that it may be looked upon as a positive test so early as the first few days after the first missed period, and that it is likewise useful in differential diagnosis and in the diagnosis of certain other uterine conditions.

University of California Offers Its Facilities to California Physicians Making These Tests.-Because it is necessary that laboratories which would properly do this test should have an adequate supply of sexually immature rats or mice constantly on hand, and have experience in interpreting the histology of the ovary, and until such time as one or more laboratories throughout the state are prepared to acquire this experience and have a supply of such animals at their disposal, the Anatomical Laboratory of the University of California at Berkeley will continue to extend its facilities for doing this test, to physicians in private practice. A charge of ten dollars is made for the studies and report in each case. The University authorities hope that the test will come into such general use that it will be possible for one or more private laboratories to take over the work. A perusal of the Evans-Simpson paper will no doubt lead many physicians in California to try this new test and to avail themselves of the facilities so kindly placed at the disposal of the medical profession by the state university.

The Coffey-Humber Report to the San Francisco Pathological Society.—When a month or so ago two members of the California Medical Association, Doctors Walter B. Coffey and John D. Humber of San Francisco—at the request of and in order to give more detailed information to colleagues who knew of and who were interested in their studies, presented to the San Francisco County Pathological Society* a report on some cancer investigations which they had been carrying on for many years, they probably were as much surprised as were many other members of the California Medical Association, at the sensational publicity which was immediately given to their observations by the lay press. The publicity did not confine itself to local newspapers, but through the press agencies became almost over night a subject of almost national comment in the public press.

^{*}See letter in this issue of California and Western Medicine in correspondence column of the Miscellany Department, in which a digest of this report by Doctors Coffey and Humber to the San Francisco County Pathological Society and other letters are printed, page 210.